

CALIFORNIA BIODIVERSITY NEWS

California Biodiversity Council

Spring/Summer 2006 Vol. 13 No. 1



**By
Mike
Chrisman**
Co-Chair,
California
Biodiversity
Council

FROM THE CHAIR

The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) meeting in Merced is quickly approaching and will touch upon current challenges as well as future opportunities for preserving and enhancing the unique ecosystem of the Central Valley. It has been a decade since the CBC last hosted a meeting in the Valley-my hometown of Visalia. Much has occurred in the Valley over that period of time, which is why this is such an opportune time for us to return again to this large and diverse region of the state.

Approximately 450 miles in length and between 40 and 60 miles in width, the Central Valley is geographically defined by the mountains surrounding it, extending from Redding in the north

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San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Begins

by Marjorie Kirn, Assistant Executive Director, Merced County Association of Governments, and Project Manager, San Joaquin Valley Blueprint

The eight San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government (COGs), working with the Great Valley Center (GVC), have embarked on an unprecedented effort to preserve and improve the quality of life of the

San Joaquin Valley. Each valley COG will be facilitating a dialogue among the communities, cities, and counties to take local control of the future they create for themselves.

Decisions made today determine the future. Using a bottom-up approach, the process will engage local communities in a visioning process, which will be incorporated into a valley-wide vision. Everything proposed through this

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Great Valley Center Report Ties Healthy Environment to Central Valley Economy

*California Biodiversity Council
Instrumental to Final Report*

by Shiela Hurst, Great Valley Center

The Great Valley Center, with the assistance of the California Biodiversity Council, has released its latest report on the environmental well-being of the Great Central Valley. According to the report, *The State of the Great Central Valley: The Environment (2000-2005)*, the health of the 19 county region stretching from Redding to Bakersfield can be linked to the ability of the fast-growing area to attract highly-educated workers and well-paying jobs. It shows that as the Valley's

population has grown, indicators that impact quality of life, such as pollution and water use, have also increased.

These findings are among more than two dozen documented in a comprehensive revisit of environmental data first tracked by the Great Valley Center in 2000. It includes data on air quality, water quality, land use, species and habitat, and resources and a centerpiece essay by Apollo 9 astronaut Rusty Schweickert tying the interre-

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From the Chair

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to the Tehachapi Mountains in the south, and from the valley floor up to 2,000 feet in elevation along the Coast Range and the Sierra Nevada. The region is politically subdivided into 18 counties that are home to 17 percent of the state's population, and account for 15 million acres, or 15 percent of California's total acreage.

The Valley's natural resources are both diverse and unique; some plant assemblages and animal species are found nowhere else in the world. The Valley is home to almost 600 sensitive, rare and endangered species. A key element of the Pacific Flyway, the region is also home to 16 species of waterfowl totaling between 4 - 6 million birds during the winter months.

On April 5th, the CBC meeting kicks off with a tour of the Grasslands State

Park, Los Banos Wildlife Area and US Fish and Wildlife Service managed habitat that demonstrate successful joint ventures in the San Joaquin Valley. We are honored to have the University of California, Merced Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey as our dinner speaker. Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey will reveal how the most recently established UC campus plans to play a major role in addressing population growth and natural resource stewardship in this region.

The two day meeting will also include an overview of current and future population growth and development trends, as well as the social, economic, and environmental conditions of the valley. Various agency and departmental representatives will address regional growth management and resource

conservation including:

- Blueprint Planning in the Sacramento Valley Region
- Central Valley Vision
- Central Valley Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Program
- The Great Places Program

Understanding the environmental and economic importance of this region to the state, Governor Schwarzenegger established the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley in June 2005. This Partnership is charged with identifying collaborative projects and programs that will improve the vitality of the Valley, collaborating with federal efforts to support the region, partnering with the state's public and private higher education and research institutions to study the importance and needs of the area, and analyzing the effectiveness of state laws and regulations to determine if there are better ways to meet state statutory objectives. The Governor has asked the Partnership to provide a report that recommends strategies for sustainable growth that will create jobs and improve environmental quality in the region.

The CBC meeting in Merced will contribute to our better understanding the Valley and what roles CBC members can play to improve the quality of life for all living things that make the region their home. ☞



Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge
Photo by Marc Hoshovsky

Environmental Considerations in Regional Transportation Planning

by Susan Brewer,
Division of Transportation Planning, Caltrans

State and regional transportation planning agencies are developing ways to integrate transportation, land-use and environmental planning. Greater emphasis is placed on consensus-based regional collaboration to address different perspectives and competing interests. The following three initiatives in the San Joaquin Valley demonstrate this.

Governor Schwarzenegger established the California Partnership for the

San Joaquin Valley in June 2005 to enhance the economic vitality of the eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare). The Partnership is looking at how to address the

San Joaquin Valley Partnership Counties



Valley's projected population growth for the next twenty years, including economic development, education, health and human services, transportation, land use, agriculture, housing, air, water and environment.

The Partnership will

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Council to Meet in San Diego in September

by Janet Fairbanks, San Diego Association of Governments

The California Biodiversity Council (CBC) is scheduled to meet in San Diego on September 27-28, 2006. The theme of the meeting is "Biodiversity along the Border - Managing a Shared Ecosystem". Federal, state and local officials from both the United States and Mexico will be invited to participate. Meeting topics are designed to be of interest to both sides, with a focus on how we can work together better to protect and enhance our shared watershed.

The Tijuana River Watershed is vast and complex spanning both sides of the border. The traditional Wednesday field trip is being designed to give Council members a feel for both urban and back country environmental issues along a busy international border in one of the fastest growing regions in the world. The conference hosts are recommend-

ing a day-long field trip instead of the traditional half day field trip to give us an opportunity to go into Mexico to see first hand the challenges of assuring an interconnected binational conservation network and a sustainable ecosystem.

In order to do this, the hosts are hoping Council members will fly into San Diego the night before prepared to begin the field trip by 9:00 am.

On Thursday, Council presentations will include projects occurring on both

sides of the border with a presentation from Mexican officials on their ideas of how we can work together better to protect this resource.

The conference hosts are delighted that the Council has selected the San Diego region as their next meeting location. ☺

SAVE THE DATE
Sept. 27-28, 2006
San Diego, California

Great Valley Center Indicators Report

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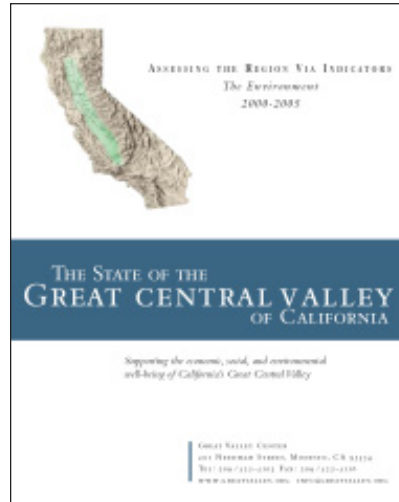
lated topics together.

In putting together the report, the California Biodiversity Council and the Federal Interagency Task Force for the Economic Development of the San Joaquin Valley supported a team of Great Valley Center analysts and staff with technical advice, data, and guidance.

The report urges policymakers to develop effective strategies to balance population growth with environmental management or risk higher long-term costs and reduced profits in the future. For example, while progress has been made in reducing the air pollutants that cause ozone, the number of days above government standards has continued to increase and the emissions from road dust, exhaust, and waste burning is projected to increase -

alongside population growth.

Since 1999, the Modesto-based Great Valley Center has published a series of indicators reports that have defined the region, framed important issues, set baselines for assessing



future trends, and raised awareness of critical challenges facing the rapidly growing and often underserved Valley. "The Environment" is part of the Great Valley Center's five-year series examining the region's economy, environ-

ment, community well-being, health, and educational performance. The Great Valley Center is a nonprofit organization that supports organizations and activities working to improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley. Major support is provided by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation.

This year's study was made possible with funding from the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and the State Water Resources Control Board. Additional support was provided by Citibank and Kaiser Permanente. ☞

Hard copies of The State of the Great Central Valley: The Environment (2000-2005) may be requested at info@greatvalley.org. Downloadable PDF versions are available online at <http://www.greatvalley.org>.

“ Grasslands ”

by Kim Forrest, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Located in the Central Valley of the most populous state in the nation, the "Grasslands" encompasses approximately 160,000 acres -- and is California's largest remaining wetland ecosystem. Even though only four percent of California's historic four million acres of Central Valley wetlands exist today, this "postage stamp of habitat" has survived massive water diversions, urban encroachment, and intensive agricultural development.

Due to decades of focus by agencies, conservation groups, and the public, over 130,000 acres of this precious, historic ecosystem are protected by fee and easement. A powerful partnership has formed among the conservation entities, and remains strong and effective in protecting, preserving, and restoring these natural resources.

The Grasslands typically winter up to 1 million waterfowl, and provide fall and spring migration habitat for over ¼-mil-

lion shorebirds. The Pacific Flyway's largest populations of Sandhill cranes and Ross' geese winter here. More than 550 species of birds, animals and plants - including 47 species that are federally-listed as sensitive, threatened, or endangered - have been identified in the Grasslands.

These natural resources have been recognized by many. The Grasslands have been recognized as a Western

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Council Meets to Discuss Invasive Species in California

by Crawford Tuttle, Resources Agency
and Mike Chapel, US Forest Service

The Council met in Sacramento on December 1, 2005 to discuss invasive species in California. The meeting was organized as a series of panels that provided the Council with an overview of invasive plants, animals, and pathogens in the state. The council then agreed to form a working group to develop ways for increasing the effectiveness of government programs for prevention, detection, and rapid response to invasive species.

Impacts to the environment, California agriculture, and the economy.

Edie Allen (Professor, UC, Riverside) and Karen Klonsky, Coop Extension Specialist, UC, Davis) described some of the impacts from invasive species. Dr. Allen explained that increasing occurrences of invasive organisms should be expected with a changing global environment. She listed a variety of environmental impact from species invasions, including reductions in overall biodiversity; competition with native species at risk; changes in soils, water, and land environments; and modified fire behavior. Dr. Klonsky then noted that invasive species are result-

ing in an annual state-wide loss of agricultural products worth \$7-8 billion.

She described the roles of the Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) in detecting, preventing, and eradicating pest species. Dr. Klonsky also describe an economic risk assessment process that is being used to help evaluate strategies for controlling invasive organisms in agriculture.

Pathways for Introduction and Early Detection/Prevention

Dr. Scott Oneto (Coop Extension UC Davis) described the pathways that are used by plants to invade new areas.

Many species have been intentionally planted for horticulture, erosion control, or other human purposes. Others commonly "hitchhike" on clothing, animals, vehicles, and food products. Dr. Onoto explained that many successful invasive species have a horticultural origin. They are successful because they are often planted in a healthy condition, are fertilized and grow fast, and are not eradicated when they invade.

Dr. Ted Grosholz (Coop Extension, UC

Davis) described some of the pathways for movement of aquatic organisms.

Aquatic species most commonly move to new environments through the ballast water for ships; attachment to boat hulls and fishing gear; escapement from personal aquaria, backyard ponds, and seafood operations; and intentional introductions by people. Dr. Grosholz noted that early detection and rapid response is the key to affordable control. He recommended a standing reserve fund that can be accessed when new occurrences are discovered.

Mark Stanley (CA Dept. Forestry and Fire Protection, retired) offered some recommendations for managing invasive species based on his experience with managing invasive pests such as Sudden Oak Death and Pine Pitch Canker. He recommended the formation of a standing committee of agency representatives that can provide overall coordination for managing invasive species. Tasks groups would then be formed to manage individual organisms. Mark also listed a variety of considerations that must be met to have successful interagency working groups for invasive species.

Examples of Ongoing Agency Cooperation in Invasive Species

Nelroy Jackson (Vegetation Manage-

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Valley Blueprint Begins

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process will ultimately have to be embraced by the local decision makers.

The Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley established by the Governor is examining very similar issues at the regional level. The goal of the Partnership's Land Use Working Group is to develop a macro strategy for the region; localizing the strategy is another part of the challenge. The Partnership's macro strategy will be examined through the Blueprint Planning Process and recommendations incorporated into the regional blueprint plan.

As we begin this process, we realize to have a constructive, productive product in the end, one our local elected officials will implement, those who will be most impacted must be involved in the process. This means the people who live and love the valley must have a meaningful role.

Engaging the public in this momentous effort will be an enormous undertaking but it is the only way to thoughtfully address valley wide problems with the support of the people who live here. ♪

People interested in learning more about the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint may contact Marjorie Kim at the Merced County Association of Governments: (209) 723-3153 or mkirn@mcag.cog.ca.us.

Transportation Planning

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develop consensus on priorities for the region as a whole and identify an action plan of projects and programs due to the Governor November 2006.

The eight Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) of the San Joaquin Valley have joined together to develop a Regional Blueprint Plan with an initial grant of \$2 million for FY 2005/06 from the California Regional Blueprint Planning Program. The Program provides funding to MPOs to conduct comprehensive scenario planning. This approach incorporates land use, transportation, and environmental information to plan for the region's future based on consensus among regional agencies, local government, and stakeholders. Together they select a preferred scenario or "blueprint" that best

accommodates future growth in the region.

Recently, the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) along with Caltrans, FHWA and U.S. EPA created the Merced Partnership for Integrated Planning (PIP) to update the Merced 20-year Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The project successfully developed an approach for addressing environmental issues early in the transportation planning process that included scenario planning, outreach to the resources agencies at the planning stage and extensive public participation. The resources agencies provided environmental data, participated in workshops and developed an approach to conduct cumulative impact analysis in transportation planning. ♪



Governor Schwarzenegger signs Executive Order S-05-05, creating the San Joaquin Valley Partnership

California State Parks Central Valley Vision

by Nina Gordon, California State Parks

In the summer of 2003, California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman initiated the Department's Central Valley Vision to provide a 20-year road map for State Park actions to focus on increasing service to Valley residents and visitors. Within the Great Central Valley (San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento Valley and the Delta region), the Department operates and maintains 33 state park units representing 7% of the total state park system acreage.

In the span of only forty years, the Valley will experience phenomenal development and today is in the midst of

profound demographic, economic and social change brought on by the region's explosive population growth. Today roughly 5.5 million residents call the Valley home. By the year 2040, according to the Department of Finance, the Valley is projected to have more than 11.5 million residents.

The Department's Central Valley Vision is an ambitious strategy to identify current and ongoing Department-wide actions to meet the public's needs through a renewed effort to build economic and volunteer partnerships, park developments, upgrade facilities and acquire new park lands. Although there are no funds available

today for large scale implementation of the Central Valley Vision, Director Coleman's goal is to prepare for such a time when funding becomes available.

An Oversight Committee, consisting of various Central Valley leaders and advocates, was established to help guide the effort. Oversight Committee members included Mike Chrisman (Resources Agency Secretary and co-chair of the Biodiversity Council, Ryan Broderick, Director of the Department of Fish and Game, two members of Boards of Supervisors from Butte and Madera Counties, representatives from the Nature Conservancy, Carol

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Grasslands

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Hemisphere Reserve Network Site for shorebirds and as an Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. The Convention on Wetlands (also known as the Ramsar Convention) recently designated the Grasslands as a "Wetland of International Importance". The Grasslands is one of only four such sites in California, and 22 sites in the country.

In addition, the Grasslands area is an economic engine that produces nearly \$30 million each year for the local economy and hundreds of jobs. Over ¼-million visitors enjoy the Grasslands each year, coming away with a deeper understanding and ap-

preciation for the natural resources of the area.

Despite the protections and attention afforded the area, the Grasslands still are endangered by urban expansion, transportation projects, an ever-threatened water supply, fragmentation, and encroachment onto surrounding property. Development is continuing at a steady pace; the San Joaquin Valley region ranked second in urban growth during the late 1990's, with Merced County losing over 8,000 acres

of farmland at an accelerating rate from 1992 through 1998. It is critical that high-quality water supplies are guaranteed, and any development occurs in ways that do not harm the unique natu-

ral resources of the area. Urban growth and transportation projects must be directed away from the Grasslands and the important farmland buffer that surrounds it. Wise planning is key to ensuring

the perpetuation of this irreplaceable and economically important resource for future generations. ~

“ At the top of the (Pacheco) Pass I obtained my first view of the San Joaquin plain ... a vast level flower garden, smooth and level like a lake of gold - the floweriest part of the world I have yet seen. ”

John Muir, 1869

Welcome to the CBC

Ruben Grijalva



On January 1, 2006 Ruben Grijalva was appointed Acting Director of the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ruben Grijalva as the 13th State Fire Marshal of California on August 16, 2004.

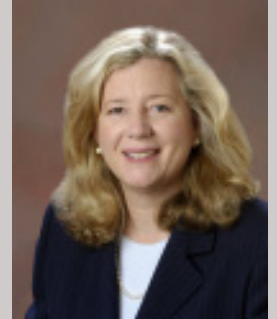
While acting as CDF Director he continues to retain the State Fire Marshal title and responsibilities.

Previously, Chief Grijalva was the Fire Chief for the City of Palo Alto, California for 10 years. He has 32 years experience working in the field of Public Safety. He had worked for Palo Alto since 1990, becoming the Fire Chief in 1994. Prior to that Chief Grijalva worked for the City of Sunnyvale, California, Department of Public Safety, for 16 years working in both police and fire capacities. Chief Grijalva has expertise in criminal justice administration and the development of fire prevention and hazardous materials regulations. While in Palo Alto, he focused on introducing new technologies to the fire service, improving emergency medical services, and disaster preparedness. He has had extensive experience in negotiations of various types, from labor negotiations to legislative and code development to hostage negotiations.

He was recognized for his role as the primary hostage negotiator in the 1988 incident in Sunnyvale, CA at a company named ESL where he successfully negotiated the surrender of the largest mass murderer in Santa Clara County history. Chief Grijalva currently chairs the State Board of Fire Services, is an ex-officio member of the California Film Commission, serves on Governor Schwarzenegger's Hydrogen Highway Network Senior Review Committee, and is on the Board of Directors of FIRESCOPE.

Bridgett Luther

On August 8, 2005 Governor Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Bridgett Luther Thompson as director of the Department of Conservation.



Thompson has served as the regional development director for Hands On Bay Area since 2004.

In this capacity she has managed fundraising and developed partnerships with a variety of public and private entities in the five-county Bay Area region for this volunteer management non-profit organization. Thompson previously was national development director for Republicans for Environmental Protection from 2003 to 2004 and program director for the Trust for Public Land in Charlotte, NC, from 1999 to 2003. She also served as a member of the Regional Water Quality Advisory Board for Mecklenburg County, NC, and the Mountain Island Lake Three County Advisory Board from 1999 to 2003. Thompson was a residential real estate broker from 1987 to 1998 for Keegan & Company Real Estate of Charlotte, NC. She is a member of both the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.

"I am honored Governor Schwarzenegger has asked me to work with him to protect California's diverse and precious natural resources," said Thompson. "I am committed to balancing California's needs today with our obligations tomorrow by ensuring the sensible use and conservation of energy, land and mineral resources."

Thompson, 50, of San Francisco, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, a certificate in non-profit management from Duke University and a certificate from the Indiana University School of Philanthropy.

New Members

Ed Burton



A new State Conservationist has arrived in California to lead federal conservation efforts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Golden State. Lincoln "Ed" Burton assumed the top post for USDA-NRCS at the Davis State Office

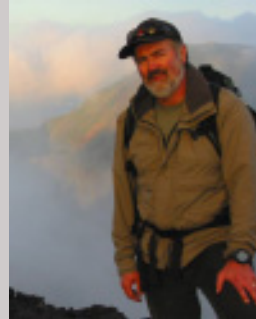
in October, 2005.

"I'm proud to be a part of NRCS continuing to build on our 70-year tradition of providing technically-sound and locally-led solutions to conservation challenges," said Burton. "For me, this position is a culmination of many years of conservation experience."

Since 1995, Burton has been the State Conservationist in Wyoming. Western born and raised, his early years were spent in southeastern Idaho before joining the Soil Conservation Service as a student trainee at age 18. After completing a B.S. degree in Range Management and a Master's in Range Ecology at the University of Idaho, he gained experience in a variety of agency positions in Utah, Washington and Wyoming. During Burton's 31-year career with NRCS, he has served as District Conservationist, Range Conservationist, Area Conservationist, Assistant State Conservationist, and Deputy State Conservationist in Washington.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service serves farmers, ranchers and other private landowners throughout the country in achieving voluntary conservation projects to protect soil, water, air, plants and animals. NRCS conservationists work closely with California's Resource Conservation Districts and other partners to develop and implement locally appropriate solutions to land care issues.

Steven Schwarzbach



The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has appointed Steven Schwarzbach to serve as director of the USGS Western Ecological Research Center (WERC), headquartered in Sacramento, CA. Schwarzbach joined the USGS WERC in 2002 as one of the center's research managers.

In July 2004, he became the center's first deputy director, and he has been acting center director since the retirement of Deborah Maxwell in spring 2005.

At the Western Ecological Research Center, Schwarzbach oversees a wide variety of research, including such topics as contaminants, fire ecology, invasive species, avian ecology, global climate change, wetland restoration, and amphibian declines. He has conducted numerous field studies of contamination impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats, working on mercury, selenium, petroleum spills, hazardous waste, agricultural drainwater, pesticides, acid mine drainage, and halogenated compounds of many origins.

Schwarzbach graduated in 1976 from UC Santa Barbara with a B.A. in environmental biology and environmental studies. In 1983, he graduated with an M.A. in education from San Francisco State University. At UC Davis, he earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in ecology, in 1986 and 1989.

Before joining the USGS, Schwarzbach worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for nearly 14 years, serving for 6 years as the chief of the Environmental Contaminants Division where he worked on linking science to the agency's policy on numerous environmental-contaminant issues. Previously, Schwarzbach worked as a seasonal ranger with the National Park Service, built trails for the U.S. Forest Service, and taught elementary school. In his spare time, he enjoys whitewater canoeing and telemark skiing.

Invasive Species

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ment Consultant, California Invasive Weed Awareness Coalition) began this discussion by describing a wide range of working groups at the state and national level who are working on invasive species. Much of the work by federal agencies is guided by a national invasive species plan. National programs for invasive species tend to address the full range of invasive species while state and local groups are often dedicated to specific taxonomic groups and environments.

Next, Larry Bezark (California Department of Food and Agriculture) provided an overview of the new state plan for noxious and invasive weeds. Larry described some of the high-priority work in the plan and also identify a variety of ways that CBC member agencies can coordinate during the development of the state plan.

Dr. Wendy West (Coop Extension, UC Davis) finished this discussion by describing how "weed management areas" are identified and used at the local level to control invasive species.

Opportunities for New Cooperation in Managing Invasive Species

Crawford Tuttle (Deputy Secretary, California Resources Agency) opened this discussion by suggesting that the Biodiversity Council could assist with managing invasive species in California. He explained that there are considerable opportunities for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of government programs. The largest benefits may be in the coordination of prevention, detection, and rapid response work. Following a discussion by the Council, staff was directed to organize a workshop to develop methods for improving coordination among member agencies on invasive species.

An interagency workshop was convened on January 19, 2006. Twenty three agencies participated in the workshop. The group met again on March 23, 2006. Work groups have been formed to: 1) improve the permitting processes associated with eradicating invasive species; 2) develop a coordinated rapid response strategy for CBC member agencies; and 3) develop a statewide plan. More information about the work of these groups may be found at <http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiversity/invasivespecies.html>. The group is scheduled to meet for a third time on Thursday, April 27, 2006.

Central Valley Vision

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Whiteside, President of the Great Valley Center and Clint Mungary from the Kern Indian Education Center.

Through their suggestions, it was determined that California State Parks can better serve the needs of Central Valley residents and visitors through a conscientious program of protecting lands and developing facilities at new and existing units. The following broad recommendations were proposed to guide the next phase of the project:

- Expand recreational facilities to accommodate larger families and groups in existing parks.
- Expand landholdings at existing parks and acquire new parklands along major river corridors.
- Acquire lands that preserve and protect vanishing natural resources.
- Better preserve and interpret the rich history associated with the Valley's past.

In 2004 the initial brochure, California State Parks & the Great Central Valley, was released. This publication outlined the initial project and its recommendations. California State Parks & the Great Central Valley can be accessed on the State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov/centralvalley.

California State Parks then went out to the public for feedback on the initial strategy and conducted a series of workshops from Redding to Bakersfield. The public also provided input

Central Valley Vision

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through letters, email and phone calls. The vast majority of the public responses reflected a support to plan ahead to preserve and protect valuable resources.

At numerous public outreach meetings held in 2005, staff asked:

- What is important in the Central Valley that should be protected and interpreted as a unit of the State Park System before it's lost?
- Which natural, historical and cultural resources and features should be protected before they vanish?
- What special stories need to be told and where are the places that need to be protected in order to tell them?
- What recreational facilities of the kind found in State Parks should be developed and where?

A few of the primary needs identified by the public are as follows:

- Increase river access, including fishing areas, boat ramps, water trails, and entrance/egress areas for water recreation.
- Acquire land featuring oak woodlands, river access, and other high-demand sites threatened by development, while land is available and before prices skyrocket.
- Increase the number of camping facilities, including larger sites that can accommodate multi-family groups, and more amenity-rich

alternative facilities such as cabins and tent cabins.

- Increase trail recreation opportunities, including trails along river corridors, trails that traverse the Central Valley and connect the ocean and Sierra Nevada, equestrian trails, and off-highway recreation areas.

These and other suggestions are included in a final document produced by State Parks. The document summarizes the public comments and also provides some highlights of current and future actions for the Department pending sufficient resources. As funding allows, some of the recommended actions include a focused survey of river areas for preservation and recreation potential, increased boat launch facilities, interpretation of the Chinese Community of Locke, and promotion of the

role of agriculture in the Central Valley. During this visioning effort, the State Parks department has acquired land at Sutter Buttes. Ruth Coleman, State Park Director is presenting this document for the first time at the California Biodiversity Council meeting in Merced on April 6th.

The document, entitled California State Parks' Central Valley Vision March 2006 is available on the California State Park website at www.parks.ca.gov or by calling the State Park Planning Office at (916) 653-9901. California State Parks looks forward to working with the other members of the Biodiversity Council to promote a viable and responsible plan for meeting the preservation and recreation needs of the residents of this very dynamic and varied area known as the Central Valley. ♪



Lake Oroville State Recreation Area

Eyes & Ears

Reading

Conservation Across Borders: Biodiversity in an Interdependent World by Charles C. Chester presents a broad overview of the history of transboundary conservation efforts and an accessible introduction to current issues surrounding the subject. Available for \$29.95 from Island Press at <http://www.islandpress.org/>.

Let My People Go Surfing: The Education of a Reluctant Businessman shows how, by keeping an explorer's spirit, it's possible to blend work, play and social duty—and be all the more successful as a result. Author Yvon Chouinard has written a stirring memoir and business manifesto from which everyone can draw inspiration. Available from Patagonia, \$26.95, at <http://www.patagonia.com/>

Saving the Gray Whale: People, Politics, and Conservation in Baja California. Once hunted by whalers and now the darling of ecotourists, the gray whale has become part of the culture, history, politics, and geography of Mexico's most isolated region. This book uses the biology and politics associated with gray whales in Mexican waters to present an unusual case study in conservation and politics. Available from University of Arizona Press, \$18.95, at <http://www.uapress.arizona.edu>

Coast of Dreams: California on the Edge, 1990-2003. In this extraordinary book, Kevin Starr—widely acknowledged as the premier historian of California—probes the possible collapse of the California dream in the years 1990—2003. Available from Random House for \$17.95, at <http://www.randomhouse.com/>

Suburban Safari: A Year on the Lawn is a fascinating and often hilarious record of author Hannah Holmes's discoveries: that many animals adore the suburban environment, including bears and cougars venturing in from the woods; how plants, in their struggle for dominance, communicate with their own kind and battle other species and that stewardship of our own backyards is our responsibility. Available from Powells.com for \$24.95.

Mining California : An Ecological History. Author Andrew C. Isenberg provides an overview of the industrialization of mining, logging, ranching and agriculture in California between 1850 and 1900 with a perspective almost entirely missing from other history texts, showing how our forebears' environmental decisions continue to affect our lives. Available for \$18.50 from Powells.com.

Expanding Partnerships in Conservation. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources explores how new and stronger partnerships can be formed between managers of protected areas and other sectors of society. It describes a range of activities currently underway in many parts of the world that are intended to improve conservation efforts at the international, national, and local levels. Available for \$39.95 from Island Press at <http://www.islandpress.org>.

Digital Resources

The Sacramento River Watershed Program's online Education resource offers the following types of information for 15 counties that fall within the Sacramento River Watershed: County, City Governments and Statistics, GIS, Watersheds, Watershed Groups, Reservoirs/Dams, Environmental Monitoring, Environmental Information and Wildlife information. Check it out at <http://www.sacriver.org>

The Watershed Information Model, hosted by Shasta College, is a high quality interactive mapping application for anyone with an interest in watershed management. Visit <http://wim.shastacollege.edu> and give it a try!



The Forest Certification Resource Center Search Tool is an online database of 800 forests and 4,500 businesses with everything from industry materials to furniture for your home. Forest certification assures consumers that the forest products they purchase are derived from operations that manage forests to a pre-determined set of environmental, social and economic standards. Go to <http://www.certifiedwoodsearch.org/>.

Upcoming Events

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**May 5- May 7 California Trails & Greenways Conference:
Statewide Trails Program & Planning**

Sponsor: California State Parks
Location: Agoura Hills, California
Contact: Nicole, (916) 653-0386
nfranckowiak@parks.ca.gov
<http://www.parks.ca.gov/>

**May 10- May 11 Great Valley Conference:
"AT THE TIPPING POINT"**

Sponsor: Great Valley Center
Location: Sacramento, California
Contact: Heidi Arno, heidi@greatvalley.org
<http://www.greatvalley.org/conference/index.aspx>

**Sept. 27- Sept. 28 California Biodiversity Council Meeting:
"Biodiversity Along the Border"**

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council
Location: Coronado, California
Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845
lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov
<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>

**Oct. 5- Oct. 7 California Invasive Plant Council
Symposium**

**Research and Management:
Bridging the Gap**
Sponsor: California IPC
Location: Sonoma, California
Contact: Doug Johnson, (510) 843-3902
dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org
http://www.cal-ipc.org/2006_symposium/

Oct. 9- Oct. 12 6th Annual California Oak Symposium

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council
Location: Rohnert Park, California
Contact: Sherry Cooper, 530-224-4902
slcooper@nature.berkeley.edu
<http://danr.ucop.edu/ihrmp/symposium.html>

**Oct. 23- Oct. 25 4th Biennial CALFED Science Conference
"Making Sense of Complexity: Science for a
Changing Environment"**

Sponsor: CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Location: Sacramento, California
Contact: Larry Brown, lrbrown@usgs.gov or
Anke Mueller-Solger,
amueller@water.ca.gov
<http://science.calwater.ca.gov/>

**Dec. 6 California Biodiversity Council one-day
Meeting**

Sponsor: California Biodiversity Council
Location: Sacramento, California
Contact: Lauren McNees, 916/445-5845
lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov
<http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/meetings.html>

Events

*Does your Agency
or Organization have
an upcoming event?*

Please let us know!

Events planned for Fall 2006
through Spring 2007 will be listed
in the next edition of the California
Biodiversity News.

Please send e-mail to
lauren.mcnees@fire.ca.gov

or other notice to

CBC, c/o CDF-FRAP

P.O. Box 944246,

Sacramento, CA 94244

Fax: 916.324.1180





California's Bioregions

The California Biodiversity Council approaches biological conservation in California at a bioregional scale. These bioregions are primarily based upon the state's physiographic provinces.

STATE

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CBC members are in normal text and representatives are in italics.

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TBD
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The California Biodiversity Council was established in 1991 by the Agreement on Biological Diversity to cooperate, communicate, and foster regional efforts to promote biodiversity conservation and consistent economic development.

How can the *California Biodiversity News* help you?



I would like to see more information on: _____

Other comments and suggestions: _____

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The California Biodiversity News is published twice yearly by the California Biodiversity Council. All issues are available online at www.ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/newsletter.html. Subscriptions are free and available to the public.

Send all changes of address, subscription requests, and other correspondence to:

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